Exploration activities on ONGC

316. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce Oil and Natural Gas Commission exploration activities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is a fact that the employees of the ONGC have shown their resentment against the Government's decision; and

(d) If so, what is Govrnment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas

317. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state Government's future plan to explore oil and natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): Oil exploration activities are undertaken in both onshore and offshore sedimentary basins in the country. Intensive exploration in pro other basins is an integral part of VIII Five Year Plan Programme. Further in order to supplement oil exploration activities of ONGC|OIL, an exercise has been initiated to invite foreign oil companies also for oil exploration in India on Production sharing basis under the proposed Fourth Round of Bidding.

Strike by the Officials of the Central Public Sector Units

318. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties faced by the common public due to the shortage of oil and power as a result of the recent strike by the officials of the Central Public Sector Units;

(b) what steps are being taken to make alternative arrangements to maintain essential services in anticipation of their strike;

(c) what were the reasons of their strike; and

(d) what action is proposed to prevent the indefinite strike as threatened by them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the difficulties faced by the common public due to the strike by Oil Sector Officers and officers of other Central Public Sector Units on Oct. 11-12, 1990. State Governments and Central Government Ministries were alerted about the strike in advance and advised to take steps to meet the situation. Steps were also taken to rush supplies to affected locations to facilitate rapid normalisation of the situation immediately after the strike.

(c) The officers of some Central Public Sector Undertakings have been aggrieved by the DA formula which is currently in force. They have sought improvement in the formula by which a higher level of neutralisation is achieved comparable to banking/insurance sectors and Central Government employees.

(d) The question regarding revision of DA formula is under consideration of the Tripartite DA Committee under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour. The Committee is yet to finalise its recommendations.